

LUKE 17:15

**ONE OF THEM TURNED
BACK, PRAISING GOD**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 186 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

Our Communion is "open" to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The 10:30AM liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Currently, we are working to secure volunteer staff for the Nursery. Carrie Oberholtzer is coordinating a schedule. Please contact her to volunteer.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Wearing a mask while in worship is optional, recommended or required based on the CDC guidelines. Green/Optional, Yellow/Recommended, Red/Required. **The instruction will be posted on the entry doors. Please be sure to bring a mask in the event of required/recommended masking. Disposable masks are available at the entrance to the church nave.***

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

Communion Procedure:

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open. Please thank Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Norma Shue, and Dr. Martha Thomas for their dedication and service.

Sunday, October 9, 2022
Holy Communion 8:00 & 10:30 AM
Musical setting 9 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship

TEMPLE TALK *“A Month of Reformation” Time & Ability* Kathleen Lemke

PRELUDE *Be Thou My Vision* arrr. Fred Bock

Stand turning towards the font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

ENTRANCE HYMN

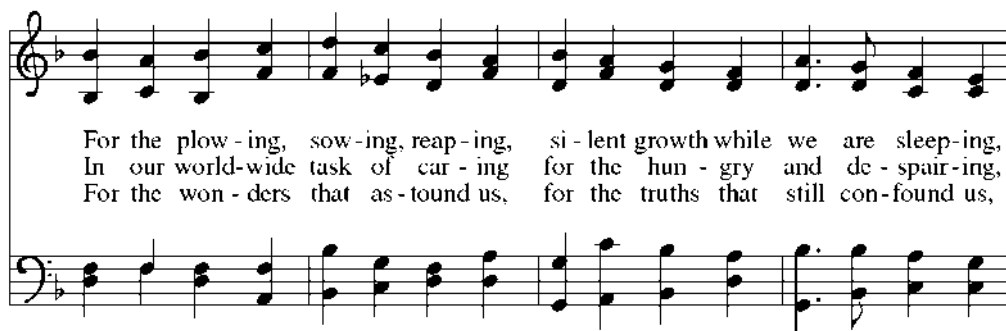
For the Fruit of All Creation (ELW 679)



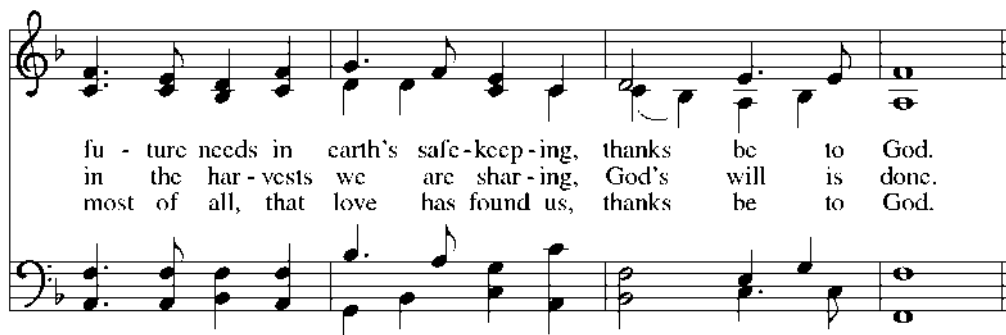
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c *(back cover)*

PSALM

Psalms 111

Spoken responsively by whole verse

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,*
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

² **Great are the deeds | of the LORD!***
They are studied by all who de- | light in them.

³ His work is full of majes- | ty and splendor,*
and his righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴ **He makes his marvelous works to | be remembered;***
the LORD is gracious and full | of compassion.

⁵ He gives food to | those who fear him;*
he is ever mindful | of his covenant.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power | of his works***
in giving them the lands | of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful- | ness and justice;*
all his command- | ments are sure.

⁸ **They stand fast forev- | er and ever,***
because they are done in | truth and equity.

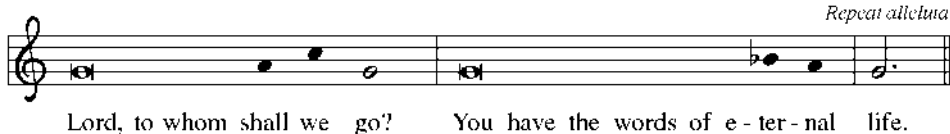
⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his cove- | nant forever;*
holy and awesome | is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;***
those who act accordingly have a good understanding.
His praise en- | dures forever.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 2:8-15 *(back cover)*

Stand
VERSE



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 17:11-19 *(back cover)*
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
At the conclusion of the Gospel.
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit
SERMON

Pastor Stan Reep

CHANCEL CHOIR 10:30 AM *Give Thanks to God* Alan Bullard

Stand
APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for bishops, pastors, and deacons (*church leaders may be named*). Inspire leaders of the church to proclaim your mighty deeds, that your saving faith may be known to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for land and water, seedtime and harvest. Break down boundaries we construct between ourselves and the rest of your creation. Bring renewal and restoration to places affected by pollution and deforestation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for those in our community, nation, and world who work for justice and peace. Guide those who govern to act on behalf of those marginalized by race, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks that you hear the cries of those in need. Restore to community those who are stigmatized by illness, feel rejected, or who live in isolation. Send healing to all who suffer (*especially Marcie Walker, Bonnie Schmidt, Jim Young, Iris Ericson, Alan & Valerie McIntosh, Anna Mae & Orven Cook, Lynn Wicker, Kathryn Rose Wicker, Gary Bilbie, Janice Cromer, Erin Bastian, Harry Harman, Peggy Jacobs, Katie Guyer, Amy Hollis, Heidi Glaudel, Kristine Gross, Rachel Barnes, Courtney Snell*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the healing ministries of this congregation. Equip those who visit, care, and pray for the sick (*especially*). Give insight to doctors, nurses, home health aides, and all practitioners of medical arts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the work of the Food Pantry. Grant strength and nourishment to all food pantry clients. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for your faithful people who have gone before us to your glory. Renew our trust in your eternal promises of mercy, redemption, and new life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people share signs of peace.

The ministers prepare the altar for Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

WORDS: *Doxology*, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois (ca. 1510-1561), *Genevan Psalter*, 1551

OLD 100th
L.M.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful Father,
we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our
time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of
him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Stand

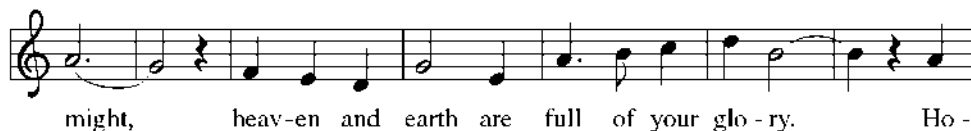
DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

FRACTION *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***Sit** The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, Bless you now and forever. **Amen**

HYMN *The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe (ACS 1068) Next Page*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Sortie

Percy Whitlock

The Earth Adorned in Verdant Robe



1 The earth a - dorned in ver - dant robe sends prais - es
2 From out the wood, the birds now sing and each its
3 O God, a - mid these joys of life, cre - a - tion's



up - ward surg - ing, while soft winds breathe on fra - grant
song now rais - es, to join with all the u - ni -
glo - ry beam - ing, grant us the grace to keep your



flow'rs from win - ter now e - merg - ing. The sun - shine
verse in voic - ing thank - ful prais - es. With hope and
word and live in love re - deem - ing. All flesh is



bright gives warmth and light to bud - ding blos - soms ten -
joy their songs em - ploy a rap - turous ex - ul - ta -
grass, the flow - ers fade, and time is fleet - ing ev -



der, pro - claim - ing sum - mer splen - dor.
tion in praise of God's cre - a - tion.
er; God's word re - mains for - ev - er.

Text: Carl David af Wirsén, 1842–1912; tr. Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, and Kenneth Jennings, 1925–2015

Music: SOMMARPSALM, Waldemar Åhlén, 1894–1982

Text and music © 1934, 1974 A. B. Nordiska Musikforlaget, admin. Walton Music Corp., a div. of GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com.

All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God
in Memory of Floyd Egger, Jr. on his birthday by Teresa &
EdiRohrbaugh and Family
And In memory of Joan Schedin Barress and Lewis Williams by
Julie & Steve Schedin*



Food Pantry—Fall

Items needed: Beans, corn, juice, jelly, macaroni, Rice (1 or 2 lb bags), dehydrated potatoes, powdered milk, canned tuna, tomato sauce and soup. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags.

Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh, Patty Snyder, or Janet and Larry Moore.. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

This Week at St. Paul's

Church office open 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Mon—Thurs

Sunday, October 9

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM Holy Eucharist—
3:00 PM York AGO Presentation
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, October 10

Preschool Fall Break
7:00 PM Council Meeting—Good Shepherd Rm

Tuesday, October 11

Preschool Fall Break
9:30 AM Pantry
6:00 PM CREATE—Art, Crafts and Music for
Children age 3 through grade 6

Wednesday, October 12

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave
10:30 AM Scripture Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, October 13

10—10:30 AM Pastor & Preschool - Nave
6:30 PM Handbells—Christ Hall
7:30 PM Chancel Choir—Music Rm

Sunday, October 16

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
9:15 AM Sunday School for all ages
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Cherub Choir
2:00 PM Musical Matinee Club Recital
6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Altar Clean-up
10/9	8:00 AM	Bob Reed	Jennifer Ports	Dale Smith		Kathleen Lemke, John & Kathy Monk	Alex Bastian, Michael Poster	Kathy Monk, Lois Ann Schroeder
10/9	10:30 AM	Tristan Ericson	Janet Fitch	George Fitch	George Fitch	Pat Rudacile & Jerry Briggs, Samdy Dicken-sheets, Tonya	Kem Vaught, Larry Becker, *Steve Heistand, Dan Garber	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr

News and Updates

Pastor William Snyder leads today's session entitled "On Being a Christian: Seeking the Other in Community (Being Curious)". The group will gather in Christ Hall at 9:15 AM.

The following weeks will explore: Faith in God (Affirming the Creeds), Loving God in Liturgy: Gathered to Worship, and Loving Neighbor in Liturgy: Sent to Serve.

Our stewardship emphasis continues today, *A Month of Reformation*, with a Temple Talk given by council member Kathleen Lemke. Please take a Time & Ability form home with you for each adult household member. Prayerfully consider how you will give of your time to strengthen the ministry of St. Paul's Church.

Hospitality greeters are needed. Please contact the church office if you can serve as greeter for upcoming events.

Pumpkin Carving for Junior & Senior high youth will be held next Sunday October 16 following the 10:30 AM liturgy. Please communicate with Miss Kelly if you will join in the fun so that she has enough pumpkins for everyone to carve! (Text or email her by Sunday October 9.)

First Communion Instruction for parents and children will be held Sunday, October 23 following the 10:30 AM liturgy. Please notify Pastor Reep or Miss Kelly if you plan to attend.

thank
you!

Thank you for your support of the Harvest Dinner. The event held last evening was the culmination of a year of work by the Harvest Dinner Committee. We are especially appreciative of those who set up and served and who graciously gifted us with the items for the silent and live auctions. This benefit for the Food Pantry was possible only through the enormous outpouring of support by the congregation and the York Community. Thank You!

Sunday, October 9, 3:00 pm Piano & Choral Workshop/Performance

Noted church music composer Thomas Keesecker will be presenting a choral workshop/piano performance in the sanctuary featuring many of his sacred piano compositions and choral anthems. This presentation is being sponsored by the York Chapter, American Guild of Organists. The Chancel Choir will be singing Keesecker's anthem I Lift My eyes up to the Hills based on Psalm 121 on Sunday, October 16 which is the appointed Psalm for that day. Keesecker just released a new Advent collection of piano music.

Thomas Keesecker retired in 2019 after serving as a church musician for over 40 years in Lutheran and Roman Catholic parishes in Virginia, Montana, and Maryland. His church music is published by several publishers. His studies at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Catholic University School of Music in Washington, D.C. prepared him for a career in which he has mixed classical technique and jazz improvisation. In his retirement he travels the country sharing his piano collections in informal recitals which incorporate hymn singing, readings, and poetry.

Organ Recital Sunday, October 16, 4:00 pm

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Hanover
to present organist Carol Williams in concert.**

Free tickets are required for admission and can be ordered by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: October Concert, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W. Chestnut St, Hanover, PA 17331. Please note the number of tickets desired. Free-will offering. Doors open at 3:30 pm. Information can be found on the church website—www.stmattlutheran.org. The St. Mathew Austin organ with 14,470 pipes is one of the ten largest pipe organs in the world.

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Children's Choir Director	Julianna Jones	jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Sunday school classes were held in the basement of the church. It was there that Mrs. Schmidt presented her weekly lesson. She presented most lessons integrating current trends in technology. In that time period she relied heavily on a flannel graph. It was the Tick Tock of the early nineteen sixties! There was no power point, no YouTube, no DVD video, Mrs. Schmidt simply relied on a board covered with flannel, positioned on an easel, with the half a dozen little chairs all pulled around close. She had an array of figures and accessories and used them to present the weekly Bible story. Each week someone was on a quest. There was always someone seeking something, searching, trying to find or figure out, someone with need, great need. And Mrs. Schmidt would lead us on the quest with her array of felt characters, animals, and natural habitat (we had a burning bush and a sycamore tree). She had a donkey that was used in the Old Testament story of Balaam when the angel of the Lord tells him to go another way. That same donkey would carry Mary to Bethlehem, be positioned at the Christmas manger, it would carry Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt escaping King Harrods's murderous decree, and it would carry Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. That was a busy donkey!

Two childhood favorites were; Naaman the leper from the Old Testament reading and the Leper from the gospel. I remember them because she used the same figure, the same man who played the role of Naaman the leper was the Samaritan who returned to give thanks in the gospel story. She changed out their outfits a bit, but the base figure was the one and the same. Mrs. Schmidt was tricky; the blue horizontal piece of felt was deemed the Jordan River. And the leader of the army, Naaman, was covered with boils, and blotches to signify the dreaded skin disease leprosy. But tucked away under that blue band of river water was the other Naaman, the one whose skin was disease free, pure and unblemished. So down under the Jordan River that leper Naaman would go, seven times. Mrs. Schmidt would have us count to make sure that we remembered what the prophet Elisha had said. One, two, three... and then on the seventh go, out came Naaman completely healed of his dreaded skin disease.

The story of the ten lepers who are cleansed was embedded in my memory because Mrs. Schmidt had taken the figure used to portray Naaman and traced him out nine times, and then clipped them out with her pinking shears. They all had zig-zagged edges. She drew on them with markers to make them look like they had leprosy. Secretly we knew they were the nine who didn't return, didn't come back to give thanks. And it was that same character Naaman that came up out of the Jordan River when our voices shouted out the number SEVEN that was used in the gospel story portraying, the foreigner, the Samaritan who returned to give thanks.

Mrs. Schmidt taught about being; thankful, grateful, appreciative. She stressed the importance of healing in our lives. As kids we didn't spend much time thinking about healing; we thought we would always be young and healthy. At the time my classmates and I didn't know that our Sunday school teacher had cancer. Sunday after Sunday she arrived prepared to teach. Heaven knows that my classmates and I weren't the easiest bunch to teach nor were we the most appreciative. But that woman could tell a story. And somehow she could make it stick. Just like those felt images to the flannel covered board.

We are just beginning our fall stewardship emphasis ***A Month of Reformation***. Today we were asked to complete a Time and Ability Form committing to work needed as we carry out our shared mission and ministry. We may not have the gift and skill of a teacher like Mrs.

Schmidt, but each of us contributes to the whole of the story; daily we encounter people on a quest: healing, acceptance, restoration to community life, and in some sense, to be made free. In Christ Jesus we are made free. This morning I don't have a flannel graph to portray the stories for you. You have heard them read. You maybe have your own recollections of these healing stories, of these stories of thanks, gratitude, appreciation. I am drawn to the words of Jesus; Jesus tells the Samaritan who returns and gives thanks, *"get up and go your way faith has made you well."* To go on his way, this time not to show himself to the priests at the temple, but to simply go. In Christ Jesus, in the word proclaimed to him, he is made free, set free to go. No strings attached. No particular task to perform (Leviticus 14:1-32). No seven of anything. He is addressed simply in the word of Christ Jesus to "go."

I don't have a wide blue felt strip to depict the Jordan River, but we do have the baptismal font present and in our midst. We didn't go down into the water seven times, but three times the water with the word commanded by Christ was washed over us to take away sin, what separates us from God. For some of us it has been a few years or several decades since we felt that water and heard those words for the first time. Gathering in worship we remember that we are on a quest for some type of healing: physical, emotional, spiritual; in our lives, for our families, for the community, for the nation, and for the world. We come to communion as people who God welcomes; accepts and forgives, embraces and loves. The simple gifts of bread and wine may not seem grandiose. But they are the gifts given to us so that we are made free to go. Naaman expected great incantations. The 10 lepers sought mercy. The power at work today is God's power made known through his Son, Christ Jesus. The biblical narrative reveals the remarkable power of Jesus to heal and restore. The examples this morning are of oppressed and excluded people coming to God: a centurion is commended for great faith; a Samaritan is commended for giving praise; and later in the gospel of Luke we will hear of a dying thief on a cross beside our Lord Jesus, receiving the gift of eternal life. Jesus acts. Jesus speaks. And lives are transformed, changed, healed, and turned around. With each one something new becomes possible as they "go." Something new is possible for you too through the generosity of God's love made known through Christ Jesus.

We don't often use the language of quest to refer to our journey through life. The fact that we have gathered together this morning bears witness to our belief that Christ Jesus has something to do with our quest. Jesus has a word for us as he did for those who encountered him on the way to Jerusalem. "Come to me," Jesus says, 'whoever you are, whatever your background, however excluded you may have felt in your life. Bring me your aches of body, mind and heart. Come to me. I have a word for you. I heal the sick. I welcome the outcast. I give eternal life to people who may be breathing their last earthly breath. I will turn your life around so that you can go. To all who believe in me I have these simple words: 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well' says Jesus.

Those where the words spoken by Mrs. Schmidt at the end of the Sunday school lesson "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." Then she would pray that all would be made well. She would carefully take down the felted figures from the flannel covered board and pack them away for another Sunday, another quest, another story about being set free to "go." Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel."

Psalm 111

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

GOSPEL: Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?" ¹⁸Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8.

Cover: "Healing of a Leper" mosaic in Polloc Sanctuary in Cajamarca, Peru. Copyright © Carlos Mora/Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org.

Copyright © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A.

Tracks 1 and 2
ELCA-R